IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE FOR RAJASTHAN AT JODHPUR

O R D E R

Kishore Ram & Anr. Vs. State of Rajasthan & Anr.

S.B.CR.MISC. PETITION NO.1168/2006

DATE OF ORDER :: November 23, 2006

PRESENT

HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE H.R.PANWAR

Mr.Rameshwar Hedau, for the petitioners.
Mr.Ashok Upadhyaya, P.P.

BY THE COURT:

I have heard learned counsel for the petitioners and the Public Prosecutor.

It is contended by the learned counsel for the petitioners that the order taking cognizance dt. 24.6.2005 passed by the Judicial Magistrate, Merta (for short 'the trial court' hereinafter) is barred by period of limitation.

From the perusal of the order passed by the Additional Sessions (Fast Track), Nagaur camp Merta dt. 21.6.2006, it

appears that the occurrence is of 17.1.2006 and the FIR was lodged on the next day i.e. 18.1.2004 and the matter was remained with the police for investigation. However, the police filed the FR. The notice of filing negative final report was served on the non-petitioner-complainant on 8.12.2004 and thereafter on protest petition by the complainant protesting the FR, the trial court took the cognizance by order dt. 24.6.2005. Keeping in view the decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Bharat Damodar Kale vs. State of Andhra Pradesh, **(2003) 8 SCC 559,** wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held as under:

> "A cumulative reading of various provisions of Chapter XXXVI Cr.P.C. clearly indicates that the limitation prescribed therein is only for the filing of the complaint or initiation of the prosecution and not for taking cognizance. It of course prohibits the court from taking cognizance of an offence where the complaint is filed before the court after the expiry of the period mentioned in the said Chapter. This is clear from Section 469 of the Code found in the said Chapter which specifically says that the period of limitation in relation to an offence shall commence either from the date of the offence or from the date when the offence is detected. Section 470 indicates that while computing the period of limitation, time taken during which the case was being diligently prosecuted in another court or in appeal or in revision against the offender should be excluded. The said section also provides in the Explanation that in

> computing the time required for obtaining the consent or sanction of the Government or any other authority should be excluded. Similarly, the period during which the court was closed will also have to be excluded. All these provisions indicate that the court taking cognizance can take cognizance of an offence the complaint of which is filed before it within the period of limitation prescribed and if need be after excluding such time which is legally excludable. This clearly indicates that the limitation prescribed is not for taking cognizance within the period of limitation, but for taking cognizance of an offence in regard to which a complaint is filed or prosecution is initiated beyond the period of limitation prescribed under the Code.
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> Apart from the statutory indication, the said view also gets support from the fact that taking of cognizance is an act of the court over which the prosecuting agency or the complainant has no control. Therefore, a complaint filed within the period of limitation under the Code cannot be made infructuous by an act of the court. The legal phrase "actus curiae neminem gravabit" which means an act of the court shall prejudice no man, or by a delay on the part of the court neither party should suffer, also supports the view that the legislature could not have intended to put a period of limitation on the act of the court of taking cognizance of an offence so as to defeat the case of the complainant."

Keeping in view of the aforesaid decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in my view, it cannot be said that the order

taking cognizance is barred by period of limitation warranting interference in the inherent jurisdiction.

The petition has no force and, therefore, it is dismissed.

[H.R.PANWAR],J.

m.asif/-